

THE
HISTORY
O F
Don BELLIANIS,
OF GREECE.

Containing

An Account of his many wonderful Exploits, and his obtaining the Soldan of Babylon's Daughter in Marriage.



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The HISTORY of
Don Bellianis of Greece.

C H A P. I.

Don Bellianis, Emperor of Greece, marries the King of Spain's Daughter; he kills two Lions, and endeavouring to rescue a Prince from a Bear, is led into an enchanted Cave; the Wonders he saw there; how he broke the Enchantment; and the Emperor's Search after him.

DON BELLIANIS, Emperor of Greece and Clavenceople, having by conquest enlarged his empires, in order to leave behind him an heir, he married the Princess Clarinda, daughter of the King of Spain, by whom he had three Princes, viz. Don Bellianis of Greece, Don Clavence of Spain, and Don Lucidimore of Thessally; whose valiant deeds will appear in the sequel of this history, more especially those of Don Bellianis.

Don Bellianis being one day taking his recreation with his attendants, on the side of a forest, two lions rushed out and assaulted him, which he soon vanquished: In the mean time a bear set on his cousin Don Arselio, overthrew him and dragged him to the forest; which Don Bellianis perceiving, hastened to his rescue, and pursued the bear into a cave, where he saw the pictures of several ladies; but while he was reading the inscription, the bear and giant attacked him, which after a fierce combat he slew; and seeing a sword fastened to one of the pillars at the cave, he drew it out, and immediately followed a dreadful storm of thunder and lightening. After this deliverance Don Bellianis and his cousin looking upon a pillar of saphire they saw the following prophecy engraved thereon, "The fearful keepers of this cave being slain by the Lion, and the sword won, shall cause the loss of the living, and finding of the dead." — While they were considering what this might mean, a pair of ivory gates flew open, and a most beautiful lady entered, attended by two Knights and twelve

damsels, who requested of Bellianis and Don
his cousins to go with her and have their
wounds dressed; to which they consented,
and were laid in a rich bed in a stately
chamber.

During these things the Emperor went
in search of the two Princes, accompa-
nied by Don Brianel and a Squire, whom
coming to a castle, whose gates were shut,
he climbed over the wall, and slew some
giants, and took a knight named Galeano,
prisoner, who had been sent to kill these
giants by the Soldan, for which he was
to have his daughter in marriage.—After
this conquest the Emperor continued his
search in quest of his son.



C H A P. II.

and Don Bellianis and his Cousin being healed of their Wounds, are supplied with Armour, and undertake to redress their Benefactress's Injury. Who the Lady was. They are carried through the Air. The Adventure of the dangerous Bridge. Their Escape from being murdered; and their Revenge on their Adversaries.

DON Bellianis and his cousin being still in the enchanted palace with the lady and her damsels, desired to know who she was, and what she requested of him? I am, replied she, Aurora, daughter of the King of Antioch, who for hindering the love of a Knight called, The Knight of the Three Images, to take effect with the Princess Floris bella, daughter to the Soldan of Babylon, by telling her father of it, had not only my father slain, but my kingdom seized by that Knight and his followers, who gave it to Galleano his kinsman; and to prevent my destruction, an enchantress brought me and my damsels to this

would arrive here, who should restore me to my kingdom ; and this can be none but yourself, whose valour has done wonders.—Fair Princess, said Bellianis, I am a Prince of Greece, and at all times ready with my sword to relieve the distressed : I can raise a powerful army, and restore you your kingdom. The Lady thanked him, to and her damsels supplying him with armour, they all left the cave, and travelled till they met with two Knights and a Squire, who were the Emperor and his two attendants ; and after many dangerous fights with Knights and Giants, they came to a grove, where they saw a chariot drawn by Griffins descending, into which they and the Princess Aurora were put, and carried through the air by Bellona the enchantress ; and arriving at her castle she cured them of their wounds, feasted, and then dismissed them. They then travelled towards Antioch, and met with Duke Alfon, and coming to a bridge they were stopped by a Knight that kept it, attended by Knights and Giants, but after a stout

beheld and fell in love with him) they forced their way over the bodies of their enemies. Here Duke Alfonso met the Princess Persiana, whom he had long been in love with: but they resolved to conceal it till a fitter opportunity. The Soldan feasted him in his castle, and there were great rejoicings. It was then Don Bellianis, from a picture of Florisbella, fell in love with her, and stiled himself Knight of the Golden Image.

By this time Gallaneo had escaped in flight from the Emperor's bands, and being returned, and finding Don Bellianis and his companions in favour with the Soldan, he envied them, and formed a plot with his friend Galfeo to murder the Knight of the Golden Image in his bed; but he met them on the stairs, and a fight began, in which Galfeo and Galleano were slain. This much displeased the Emperor, which Bellianis hearing, withdrew from the city, and slew the dreadful Dragon of the Ryhean Woods, who pursued two virgins to devour them, as they were in pursuit

Giant Felleston, King of Cyprus sent over threatenings of revenge for the death of his kinsmen Galloano and Galfeo vowed to destroy the city, unless he would send him his daughter as a compensation for the offence. This troubled the Soldan, who misunderstanding that Don Bellianis's love for his daughter had been the cause of this mischief, confined her to her chamber; and being advised he sent a herald to Fellestone, telling him he would not comply with his demands, though he was very sorry for the death of his kinsmen. This made the Giant angry, and raising an army before the walls of the city, dared the boldest to combat, swearing that if his demands were not answered in three days he would storm the city, and put all therein to the sword.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

Fellestone and his two Brothers are slain by Bellianis and two other Knights; and of the Kings of Armenia and Thessaly delivering Bellianis and others out of Prison.

DON Bellianis hearing the destruction of the city threatened Fellestone, who had two Brothers as monstrous as himself; and that to please them, had seized Duke Alfron, charging him, (as well as the Princefs, with contriving Galleano and Ga'feo's deaths; he privately conveyed himself into the city, resolving to attack the Giants; which the Soldan hearing, ordered him to imprisoned also, and acquainting Fellestone with what he had done; bidding him and his brothers come into the city, and remain there till satisfaction might be had. This they accepted, challenging any champion to fight them, and if there was none, they demanded the Duke Alfron, and the Knight of the Golden Image to be executed, and the Princefs imprisoned for life, upon which Don Arflio and Don Braniel

Don Arselo and Don Braniel stepped forth, and desired them to combat on behalf of Alfiron and Bellianis, who were not suffered by the Soldan to fight because they were accused ? but Bellianis putting on a damsel's garment, escaped out of prison, and getting a suit of armour entered the list with the other champions, and when the trumpet sounded a charge; they rushed together with great fury, Bellianis encountering with the King of Cyprus, and the other Knights with their brothers ; whom they soon slew, and then Bellianis went back to prison, from whence he was demahded by the other Knights, but refuted by the Soldan, who commanded them to depart the city ; which ungrateful usage so enraged the Kings of Armenia and Thessaly, who had engaged for their safety, that they raised forces, released the Princess; who was soon after married to the Duke Alfiron, whom she long had loved.

C H A P. VI.

Bellianis goes into Egypt, finishes Bran-dezer's enchanted Castle ; then goes to Babylon to resue the Princess Floris bella.

AFTER a long war upon the Duke Alfon's marriage, he was settled in peace ; and Bellianis taking his leave, set out for Egypt, accompanied by the enchantress Bellona, to finish the Adventure of the enchanted castle, where Bran-dezer, some time Emperor of Babylon, lay enchanted, till the best Knight in all the world should set him free ; which Bellona said, the destinies had reserved for him to accomplish. To this castle she led him, where he overcame Knights, Lions, &c. the gates unfolded and discovered the Emperor in a fiery chariot, crying out lamentably. Yet Bellianis was no sooner entered, but the Emperor fell furiously upon him, but was soon defeated ; then by the advice of Bellona he took a ring off his finger, and immediately the enchantment broke, and the castle vanished away in thunder and

lightening; when Bellona mounting in a chariot drawn by fiery dragons, was soon out of sight.

The Prince then set out for Babylon, to visit the Princess Florisbella, who was returned to her father's; going over the plain he perceived a chariot hurrying away with a Lady in it in a trance, and many crying after it. Bellianis hasted up and slew the Knights that guarded it, and looking on the Lady, he knew her to be Florisbella, but supposing her to be under enchantment, he put on her finger the adamantine ring that he took from the Emperor, and she recovered immediately. This was done by the sage Friston to get the Princess, to marry her to the young Prince Persianas. — The Soldier thanked the unknown Knight for his deliverance, entreating him to discover himself; but whilst he was contemplating on the beauties of the Princess, Bellona descended in a cloud, and commanded him immediately to depart with her, which he did; she promising he should return, and make himself known to them, when he had finished an adventure she had in hand for him.

C H A P. V.

Florisbella falls in Love with Bellianis, from the Report of her Damsels, whom he had rescued from a mighty Dragon; and of Aurora being married to Don Brianel, Prince of Macedonia.

NO sooner was Bellianis gone, but the court fell to wondering who this Knight should be; but the Princess remembered him to be the same person that so bravely overcome the opposers at the bridge, and was now more in love with him than ever; yet fearing he might be in love with another Lady, and neglect returning, she cast herself on her bed, and fainted away. At this time came in two of her damsels, who had been in search of her cousin Aurora, and by Don Bellianis delivered from the jaws of the dragon; and seeing her so bad, fetched cordials to revive her; and began to give an account of their journey, and of the Knight their deliverer,

telling her he had passionately fell in love with her, from the sight of her picture, which they had given him as a token of gratitude for their deliverance, which he had put into his shield ; promising to decline no dangers for her sake.

The Princess being further informed, her cousin Aurora was in safety, inwardly rejoiced ; but outwardly chid them for putting the picture into the King's possession : so without farther enquiry, she retired to her closet.

While these things passed at Babylon, Bellona directed Bellianis's course towards Antioch, which kingdom belonged to the Princess Aurora, and seized by King Tamolucan after the death of Don Gallaneo, who kept the city with a strong garrison. But the Princes Brianel, Giarino, Palieno, and Bellianis having promised to reinstate the Princes, went thither, accompanied by some few other Knights ; and Palieno going to the porter of the gate, disguised in the habit of a pilgrim, and desiring to speak with Garion the Governor got admittance ; when drawing his sword from under his

gown, he slew the porter : on which the other Princes rushed in, and a slaughter ensued that made the channels run down with blood ; and by their valour recovered the city, to the great joy of the citizens, who had long been oppressed by the tyrant, crying out. Long live our Princess Aurora. The Princess soon after arriving was crowned Queen ; who bestowed gifts on Palieno and Glation ; and as a recompence to Braniel for his long love towards her, she married him ; and these fortunate action were crown with a great deal of joy and feasting.



C H A P. VI.

Don Bellianis returns to Babylon, rescues
the Princess Matarosa and her Brother
from the Giant Altifer.

DON Bellianis remembering his promise of return to Babylon, took his leave of the new Queen, and accompanied by several Knights, set forwards. At a little distance from Antioch, he perceived a knight all bloody riding in haste towards him. The Knight, with a faint voice, cried, As you are Knights and friends to the distressed, haste to relieve the Princess Baltasano and her sister the Princess Matarosa, whom Altifer a giant has with several other ladies, surprised in a castle, where they lodged last night in their way to Antioch, in order to visit the new Queen Aurora, and is carrying them to his castle, there to force the Princesses to marry him, who mortally hate him.

Whilst this discourse lasted, a troop came up with several ladies; of whom Bellianis demanded, Why they carried these Ladies against their will. A

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the ladies cried for help ; but Altifer commanded them to pass and not to enquire after other mens matters. This answer so enraged Bellianis, that he charged violently upon him with his lance, and threw him from his horse ; and then proceeded to encounter the other Gian's and Knights, and soon killed six of them, while his companions unbound the Princess, and made a great slaughter among the troop. Altifer, perceiving the day lost, took the Princess in his arms, and was riding away with her ; but Bellianis seeing him, pursued him so swiftly, that to escape himself, he let the Princess and fall. However, being overtaken, he faced about, and a battle ensued, in which Altifer's head was cut off, the fall of which made the earth to tremble.

The victory thus gained, the Princess was exceeding thankful to her deliverer ; and he looking steadfastly at her, knew her to be the lady he had seen when he rescued the Princess Florisbella. At which he was well pleased, thinking she would further his suit to the Princess. He then discoursed of the Soldan's fair

daughter ; and the prince's perceiving he was in love with her, gave him encouragement to pursue it, affirming, That the Prince's was no less in love with him. He then discovered to her his parentage,



when taking leave of each other, the princess and her brother departed with their train, on their way towards Antioch ; and Bellini and his company on their way towards Babylon.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Don Bellianis slays a Giant, and finishes
the Adventure of the Bower.

ON Bellianis having rescued the Princess, he thence passed through a forest, where he killed a Griffin that assaulted him; and overthrew an enchanted Knight, who kept the passage of the Pleasant Meadow, delivering several Ladies from enchantment in the bower's and then hastened to Babylon to see the Princess. When he came there he found the city in a melancholy situation, the Soldan having been stolen by the sage Priton to an obscure castle, for not letting Perineo of Persia be married to the Princess Florisbella. This much troubled Bellianis, who while he was debating with himself what he should do, saw the Princess from a window, who acquainting her mother with it, she sent a damsel to invite him to the palace. When he entered she related to him the great misfortune that had befallen them since his departure. Upon this he vowed never to rest till he had

ound out the Soldier, and brought him home again. This cheered up their spirits; and the Princess desiring to see his face, he stripped off his armour, and appeared in very rich apparel. The Princess was so ravished with her lover, that her blushes came and went; and her eyes were so fixed on him, that she knew not how to take them off; but dinner being over, and he preparing to depart, she retired, and sent one of her damsels to tell him she would speak with him. He immediately obeyed the summons, and coming in her presence, he said, Divine Lady, behold in obedience to your commands I come, to know what your pleasure is, which I am ready to obey and fulfil to the hazard of my life; and should account my death most glorious, should I lose my life in your service. — Upon this the Princess looking languishly upon him, replied, Ah! worthy Prince, the Gods forbid that I should impose on you to hazard the most precious life in the world; no, you have ventured too far, and have so obliged me that I am your debtor, and know not how

you satisfaction; and wish I could excuse the undertaking of my father's lost liberty, the which was effected in the following manner: As they were taking the air, a chariot came up to us with a lady lying in it bleeding, when in compassion I would needs step up to see if I could do her any kindness, as likewise did my father; whereupon the charioteer whipped the horses, but he could not make them stir till I alighted, by virtue of a ring which I had upon my finger; but no sooner was I got out, before they flew away with my father; nor could the swiftest of our guards overtake them, so that it was owing to the ring I was not carried away also; which was, no doubt, the intent of the charioteer, whom I suppose was the Magician Fiston in disguise, who still makes use of all his art, to procure me to marry his favourite Perianeo.

Don Bellianis hearing this, was impatient to set out in search of the Soldan; and the Prince is compelled him to take the ring with him, saying, it might be of service to him in any dangerous combat, and permitting him to kiss her

hand he departed, promising to return as speedily as the managing the affair of importance that he had in hand would admit of.

After a long travel, he found out the castle of this magician, and by virtue of his ring entered it, where he fought with many Knights, Giants, and Monsters; and at last forcibly rescued the Soldier that from among them, and carried him back in triumph to his own court, to the great joy of the Queen, the Princess, and all his subjects, upon which occasion there was feasting for many days.



C H A P. VII.

Don Bellianis gains the Love of
cefs, and Consent of her
he goes to the Temple, he
the Magician, in the Shape
and is happily married.

ALL things being thus per-
Bellianis had frequent interviews
with the Princess, in which he soon found
he had gained her heart, and pressed her
hand to consent to marry him; to this
she agreed; provided she could get the
approbation of her parents. This he
easily obtained, and his father approving
of, the day was set for their marriage.

The day appointed being come, they
proceeded to the Temple, but in their
way was met by a griffin, which snatched
her away, and ascended a great height,
but she having on the ring afore-men-
tioned, in a short space of time it de-
scended down again, and Bellianis catch-
ing her in his arms, drew his sword, and
cut off the Griffin's head: on this the

a griffin disappeared, and in
man headles, which was known
to the incanter. Then going
uple they joined hands; and
ellianis rewarded for all thi
the beautiful pricess. Th
some few years after, self
posseffion of the kingdom
cy reigned equitable many
years. Several children, who all
partook of their parents virtues.

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